

Calwell House Remains
Lot #3, North Ward
Town of Frederica, St. Simons Island
Glynn County, Georgia

HABS No.
GA 2147

HABS
GA
64- FRED
5-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
120 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

CALWELL HOUSE REMAINS

HA85
GA
64-FRED
5-

Street Address or Location: Lot #3, North Ward, Town of Frederica,
St. Simons Island, Glynn County, Georgia

Present Owner: Fort Frederica National Monument,
Box 367, St. Simons Island, Georgia

Brief Statement of
Significance: One of the more substantial houses built
by the original settlers of Fort Frederica
about 1740.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Lot #3, North Ward, was granted to Michael Germain, whose widow married John Dalton. It is not known who built the house. After his death, the house was either rented or sold to John Calwell.

2. Date of erection: 1740 - 1741 (?)

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

North Ward, Lot #3. Granted to Michael Germain, who, with his wife Joyce, arrived with the first settlers. Germain became ill soon after arriving at Frederica. John Wesley attended him in his illness and buried him Saturday, May 29, 1736. Joyce Germain then married John Dalton of North Carolina, who died in 1739. She then returned to England. Later, in 1765, it was claimed that this lot was possessed and improved by John Calwell, whose sons and widow laid claim to it.

John Calwell and his wife, Constance, were among the first settlers in Frederica. They were granted Lot #4, North Ward. Two of their children, John and Constance, were born at Frederica. John Calwell became a tallow candler and soapboiler. He died in 1753. His widow later married a McIntosh. Calwell's sons received land grants in this area in 1765 and 1766.

Source: Margaret Davis Cate, Sea Island, Georgia, typescript, Notes On Broad Street Lots, Town of Frederica, Georgia. 1957. A copy is at Fort Frederica National Monument, Box 367, St. Simons Island, Georgia.

Prepared by Lionel J. Bienvenu - April 1958

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Very little remains of this original settler's house except the foundations.

2. Condition of fabric: Foundations only; nothing left above grade.

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 27'-1" by 37'-0"
2. Foundations: Tabby, approximately 1'-6" thick, extending from basement floor, 3'-0" below Colonial grade, past basement window sill line to unknown height.
3. Wall construction: Unknown
4. Chimneys: One, of brick.
5. Openings: a. Doorways and doors: Wood frame
b. Windows and shutters: Wood frame windows, probably with small rectangular lights. Window glass fragments found did not indicate size or configuration. Small iron pintles found indicate either casement windows or shutters, or both.
6. Roof: No evidence of covering. There may have been three or four dormers on one (south) side or both sides.

C. Technical Description of Interiors:

1. Floor plans: Unknown number of stories. Basement rectangular with rectangular kitchen and one large "L"-shaped room that may have been broken up into smaller rooms. Trough around kitchen floor evidently left by sole of partition. No evidence of upper floors.
2. Stairways: Three stairways from grade to basement, brick with approximately 4" by 4" wood nosings recessed in cheeks. No evidence of stairways to upper floors.
3. Flooring: Kitchen: square clay paving quarries with brick on two sides.
Rest of basement: medium coarse tabby broken into rubble.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Several fragments of tabby plaster found, 1/2" thick with imprint of 1" wood laths and a 1/16" burnt shell lime finish coat.
5. Hardware: Found in excavation - one copper spike; rest of hardware is of iron: several pintles, one large key, one box lock nearly intact and one fragment, door hinges, large staples, one keeper for sliding bar, and forged nails.

6. Heating: Large brick oven-fireplace complex in basement; two diagonal fireplaces at right angles to each other open into adjoining rooms each one just off a corner. In one corner is a space 3' wide by 4'-9" deep, possibly for wood storage. Corner in kitchen held an oval oven approximately 1'-9" above floor with brick vaulted space beneath. Absence of flue from this enclosure and charred brick indicates it held live coals removed from oven. Two brick courses above floor a key for a wood member since decayed runs along side of storage place, continuing through wall beneath oven, along side of brick vault, out other side, there turning 45 degrees to run along outer side of kitchen fireplace. This may have been a nailing strip.

SOURCES

- a.) Dr. Joel L. Shiner, Lot 3 North Ward, one of typescript reports on excavations at Fort Frederica National Monument. Excavated October, 1957; report January, 1958.
- b.) Interviews with Dr. Joel L. Shiner, U.S.N.P.S.; archaeologist in charge of excavation, and Jackson W. Moore, U.S.N.P.S., assistant archaeologist, Fort Frederica National Monument, Box 367, St. Simons Island, Georgia. April, 1958.
- c.) Joshua Miller Map, 1796, photostat at Fort Frederica National Monument.
- d.) Examination at site, April 1958.

D. Site:

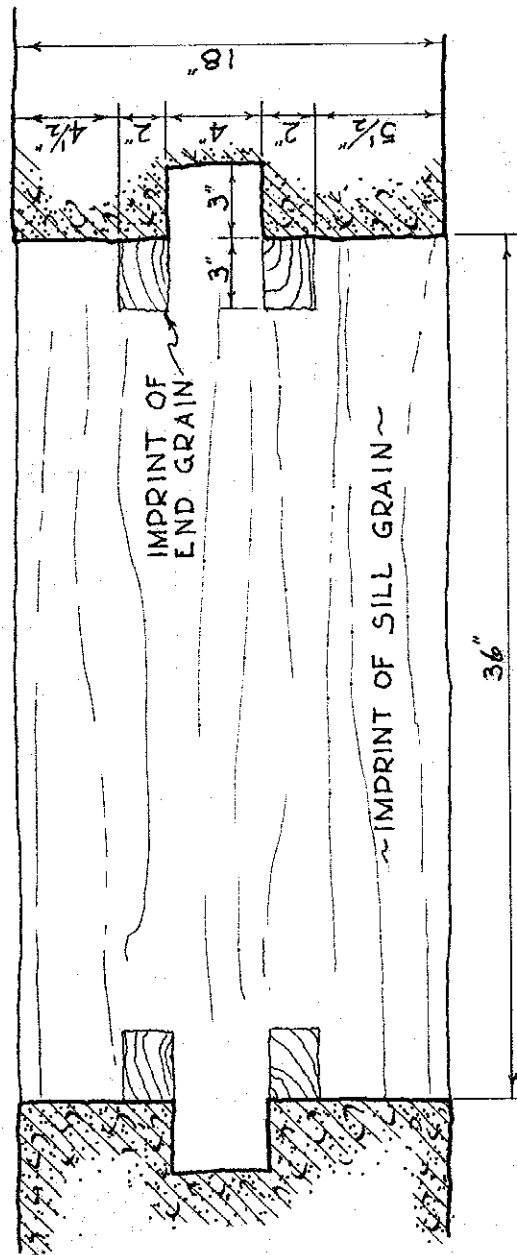
- 1. General setting: Town of Frederica, an old Indian field, flat, 40 acres. Lot #3, North Ward, 60' by 90', short south side fronting on Broad Street, 14' alley to back. Bordered on 90' sides by two like lots.
- 2. Orientation: Faces south.

Prepared by Philip E. Gardner - June 1958
Architect, National Park Service

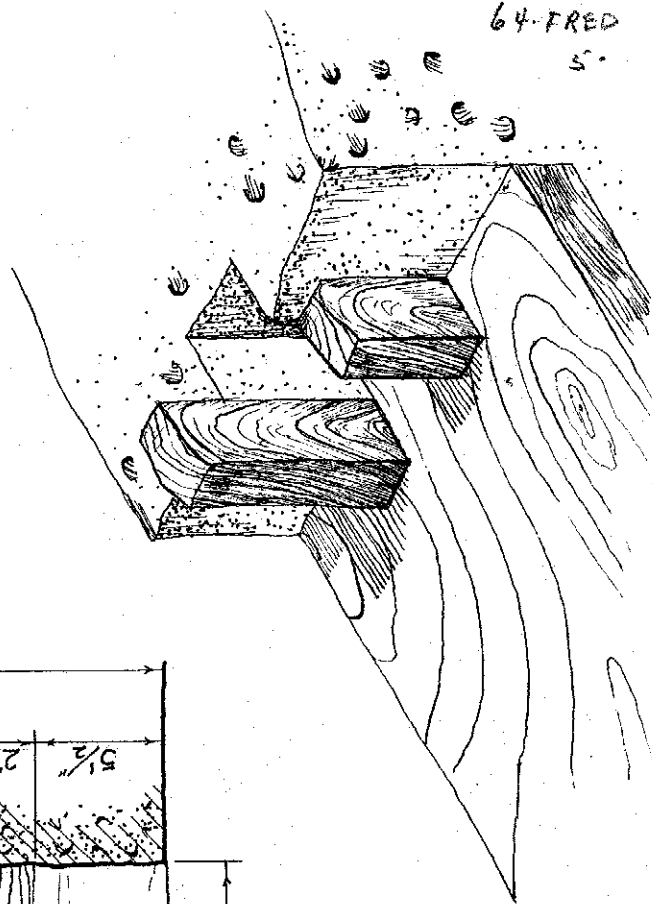
CALDWELL HOUSE

DETAIL OF NE. WINDOW

From Archeological field notes of
Albert C. Manucy and John W. Griffin,
April 16, 1959.



CONJECTURAL
ISOMETRIC



PLAN

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

HABE
GA
64-FRED
S.